Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Jamey Tesler, Acting Secretary & CEO
Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

March 25, 2021

District File # 1388

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION – CHATHAM -- Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work along a Section of (Route 28) Main Street
Contract #104049 - Federal Aid No. CMQ-STP-TAP-003S(158)
RE: Town Concerns

Mr. Thomas P. Temple
Director of Public Works
221 Crowell Road
Chatham, MA 02633

Dear Mr. Temple:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated February 25, 2021 restating the Towns concerns and documenting prior discussions on these matters. MassDOT and its Contractor are resuming work this spring and look forward to completing this project for the summer season. MassDOT provides the following responses to your itemized requests.

1. *Additional modifications to the following driveways to provide easier access/egress to each of the commercial properties:*
   West Chatham Post Office/Kreme & Cone entrance
   State Job Lot entrance (Main Street/Rte. 28 entrance)
   Larry's PX/Shops Ahoy entrance

Please note, Town officials and the Project Team have met on-site for specific recommendations. We ask that you consider expanding commercial driveway access/egress as much as possible to accommodate elderly drivers and visitors.

MassDOT staff and the project designer met with you in the field to review each location and came to an agreement on the final dimensions of the openings. This work will be completed as agreed this spring.

2. *George Ryder Road South - please have Engineers review and drive the intersection approach as drivers take a right from George Ryder Road (coming out of the roundabout and a quick left into George Ryder Road South traveling west on Rte. 28. Residents of that area have noted it is very difficult to navigate.*

MassDOT and the project designer have reviewed the area and believe the final configuration is adequate and meets the design intent of the project. Final Paving of the top course and installation of final pavement markings should alleviate this concern.

3. *Chatham Municipal Airport located at 240 George Ryder Road:*

a. A resident raised concerns about the lack of signage regarding Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). Does MassDOT intend to install RPZ signage up on each side of Rte. 28/Main Street letting motorist know they are within this zone?

b. Does MassDOT intend to install and erect signs (both sides of the road) on Rte. 28/Main Street stating, "Low Flying Aircraft"?

MassDOT has reviewed this request and determined the signage is not required. The signs are not standard MUTCD signs, nor are they included in the MassDOT Standard Signs publication. MassDOT does not intend to install these signs.

4. *Concerns were raised by residents regarding a vehicular accident just prior to the Select Board January 12, 2021 meeting) where an individual tried to enter the shared use path (which begins on George Ryder Road located just north east of the entrance of Ocean State Job Lot) instead of the driveway entrance. The slope of this embankment area where the accident occurred does not warrant the installation of guardrails at this location according to the Project Manager, however in lieu of a guard rail installation the Town is requesting split rail fencing at the top of slope with some planting adjacent to each side of the entrance of the shared use path entrance to avoid any confusion. The installation of a split rail fencing would also serve as a barrier for bicyclist and pedestrians. This will avoid either group from potentially falling into the parking lot area below while serving as a fall protection/guide for all as the slope steepens as you head towards the roundabout.*

MassDOT believes when the roadway top course, final pavement markings, and landscaping is complete this will not be an issue. Should this continue to be an issue MassDOT will consider the addition of plantings or other measures as part of the final landscaping, provided sufficient room exists in the existing State Highway Layout.

5. *A resident noted concerns regarding large puddling at Rte. 28/Main Street and the Ocean State Job Lot entrance. MassDOT representatives were asked to monitor this area to modify and/or correct this drainage issue prior to the placement of the Hot Mix Asphalt - top course.*

MassDOT will be raising all drainage basins to grade this spring and any issues with puddles will be addressed prior to final paving of the top course.

Regarding the November 13, 2019 meeting with Town of Chatham at the Statehouse in Boston, MassDOT is committed to the provisions discussed on the lighting and landscaping.

- *The Town's request to minimizing the number of streetlights called for within the 1,700' ± construction limits including but not limited to the 5 or 6 streetlights at each of the roundabouts.*
    - *It was agreed, at the meeting, to wire the streetlights so that every other light could be shut off, if determined (prior to the placement of the top course of Hot Mix Asphalt for the shared use path and the roadway) that there was sufficient/adequate lighting throughout the corridor by shutting off every other.*

- *It was recommended that MassDOT meet on site with the Director of Public Works to look at both options once lights have been erected and operational.*

MassDOT along with Chatham DPW will evaluate the lighting once activated to ensure adequate lighting without spillover is achieved for the safety of the public.

- *A request for MassDOT to provide additional landscaping of some sort to be installed on the North side in the 5' buffer between the curb and the multi-use path in lieu of just grass, if this is not possible, The Town of Chatham respectfully request MassDOT to put additional landscaping on private property with the Town of Chatham secure the necessary easement(s)/release of demands?*
  - *MassDOT agreed to look at the area in question prior to the planting schedule being performed.*

MassDOT requests you provide a list of additional landscaping along with locations for these plantings. MassDOT cannot plant on private property without the Town securing the consent of the property owner.

- *Looking towards the future, would MassDOT entertain a reprieve on the 5-year moratorium if the Town decides that there are any changes they want in the Right of Way once the project is complete - understanding the Town will bear the costs.*
  - *MassDOT was going to look into this request and get back to us. The Town of Chatham is waiting/or a response to this item.*

Future changes within the right of way will require a permit to access state highway. MassDOT would consider a waiver of the 5-year moratorium subject to certain conditions dependent upon the changes being requested.

MassDOT looks forward to working with you to complete this project in a manner that is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the District Construction Office.

Sincerely,

Mary-Joe Perry wdt

Digitally signed by Mary-Joe Perry wdt
Date: 2021.03.25 15:48:04 -04'00'

Mary-Joe Perry
District Highway Director

MJM Digitally signed by MJM Date: 2021.03.25 08:42:18 -04'00'

MJM/wav GFB Digitally signed by GFB Date: 2021.03.25 08:49:20 -04'00'

cc: DHD
Chatham Select Board
Jill Goldsmith, Chatham Town Manager
State Representative Sarah Peake
King, M.
File

Town of Chatham

Department of Public Works
221 Crowell Road
Chatham, MA 02633

Tel: (508) 945-5155
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www.chatham-ma.gov

February 25, 2021

Ms. Mary-Joe Perry, District Highway Director
Massachusetts Department of Transportation – District 5
1000 County Street
Taunton, MA 02780

RE: Chatham, MA – West Main Street/Rte. 28 Construction Project

Dear Ms. Perry:

On January 12, 2021 the Chatham Select Board (Board) held a meeting and requested representatives from MassDOT and the General Contractor to attend its virtual MS Teams meeting. The following were in attendance on behalf of MassDOT for this meeting:

- Gerald Bernard, MassDOT District 5 Construction Engineer
- Thomas Currier, MassDOT Project Manager
- Michael King, District 5 Resident Engineer
- Michael Norton, Lawrence Lynch Corp. (General Contractor)
- Robbie Burgess, Associate Principal Howard Stein Hudson Engineering & Planning

The purpose of the meeting was to address residents, businesses and the Board concerns with respect to the West Chatham/Rte. 28 Road Construction Project. MassDOT and their representatives mentioned above were provided questions (see attachment) prior to the meeting. MassDOT was asked to review the questions and provided answers to same as well as provide any updates needed for the 2021 construction season.

The following items listed below are concerns that the Town respectfully requests MassDOT address, modify, revisit and/or correct as part of the West Chatham/Rte. 28 Road Construction Project.

1. Additional modifications to the following driveways to provide easier access/egress to each of the commercial properties:
    a. West Chatham Post Office/Kreme & Cone entrance
    b. Ocean State Job Lot entrance (Main Street/Rte. 28 entrance)
    c. Larry's PX/Shops Ahoy entrance

Please note, Town officials and the Project Team have met on-site for specific recommendations. We ask that you consider expanding commercial driveway access/egress as much as possible to accommodate elderly drivers and visitors.

2. George Ryder Road **South** – please have Engineers review and drive the intersection approach as drivers take a right from George Ryder Road (coming out of the roundabout and a quick left into George Ryder Road South traveling west on Rte. 28. Residents of that area have noted it is very difficult to navigate.
3. Chatham Municipal Airport located at 240 George Ryder Road:
    a. A resident raised concerns about the lack of signage regarding Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). Does MassDOT intend to install RPZ signage up on each side of Rte. 28/Main Street letting motorist know they are within this zone?
    b. Does MassDOT intend to install and erect signs (both sides of the road) on Rte. 28/Main Street stating, "Low Flying Aircraft"?
4. Concerns were raised by residents regarding a vehicular accident (just prior to the Select Board January 12, 2021 meeting) where an individual tried to enter the shared use path (which begins on George Ryder Road located just north east of the entrance of Ocean State Job Lot) instead of the driveway entrance. The slope of this embankment area where the accident occurred does not warrant the installation of guardrails at this location according to the Project Manager, however in lieu of a guard rail installation the Town is requesting split rail fencing at the top of slope with some planting adjacent to each side of the entrance of the shared use path entrance to avoid any confusion. The installation of a split rail fencing would also serve as a barrier for bicyclist and pedestrians. This will avoid either group from potentially falling into the parking lot area below while serving as a fall protection/guide for all as the slope steepens as you head towards the roundabout.
5. A resident noted concerns regarding large puddling at Rte. 28/Main Street and the Ocean State Job Lot entrance. MassDOT representatives were asked to monitor this area to modify and/or correct this drainage issue prior to the placement of the Hot Mix Asphalt - top course.

On November 13, 2019 a meeting was held at the State House in Boston, MA with Representative Peake, MassDOT Officials, and Town of Chatham representatives to discuss the following outstanding items as it pertained to the MassDOT Chatham Rte. 28/Main Street Roadway Construction Project:

- The Town's request to minimizing the number of streetlights called for within the 1,700' ± construction limits including but not limited to the 5 or 6 streetlights at each of the roundabouts.
    - *It was agreed, at the meeting, to wire the streetlights so that every other light could be shut off, if determined (prior to the placement of the top course of Hot Mix Asphalt for the shared use path and the roadway) that there was sufficient/adequate lighting throughout the corridor by shutting off every other.*
    - *It was recommended that MassDOT meet on site with the Director of Public Works to look at both options once lights have been erected and operational.*

- A request for MassDOT to provide additional landscaping <u>of some sort</u> to be installed on the North side in the 5' buffer between the curb and the multi-use path in lieu of just grass, if this is not possible, The Town of Chatham respectfully request MassDOT to put

additional landscaping on private property with the Town of Chatham secure the necessary easement(s)/release of demands?

- *MassDOT agreed to look at the area in question prior to the planting schedule being performed.*

- Looking towards the future, would MassDOT entertain a reprieve on the 5-year moratorium if the Town decides that there are any changes they want in the Right of Way once the project is complete – understanding the Town will bear the costs.
  - *MassDOT was going to look into this request and get back to us. The Town of Chatham is waiting for a response to this item.*

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We would appreciate a response before the 2021 construction season resumes. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-945-5155 or via email at ttemple@chatham-ma.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Temple

Thomas P. Temple
Chatham DPW Director

cc: Gerald Bernard, MassDOT District 5 Construction Engineer
Jill Goldsmith, Town Manager
Chatham Select Board
State Representative Sarah Peake
File

Town of Chatham

Office of the Selectmen
Town Manager
549 Main Street
Chatham, MA 02633

Jill R. Goldsmith
TOWN MANAGER
jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov

CHATHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AGENDA REPORT

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TO: Honorable Board of Selectmen
Jill R. Goldsmith, Town Manager

FROM: Thomas P. Temple, Director of Public Works

DATE: January 6, 2021 (For the BOS meeting of January 12, 2021)

SUBJECT: West Chatham/Rte. 28 Road Construction Project Update by MassDOT

Pursuant to the Board of Selectmen request, representatives from MassDOT will attend the January 12, 2021 BOS meeting to answer questions on issues raised by you, residents and businesses on the West Chatham/Rte. 28 Road Construction Project. Please see the attached questions provided to MDOT to begin discussion, and we can forward additional questions before the meeting.

Project information is located on the Town's website - https://www.chatham-ma.gov/west-chatham-roadway-design-project-wcrdp-%E2%80%93-construction-portal.

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact me at (508) 945-5155 or ttemple@chatham-ma.gov .

Attachment

Compiled Questions Raised by BOS and/or the Public

Provided to MDOT on January 7, 2021 and not intended to limit any discussion

1. Has MassDOT, their Engineers or HSH been on site recently and on a regular basis during construction? If not, why not? If so, how frequently and when were they last here?
2. Did MassDOT or their Engineer re-evaluated all driveway entrances (within the construction limits) to ensure they could safely accommodate two-way traffic for each property?
3. What driveway entrances were altered in December 2020?
4. Has MassDOT or their Engineer looked at all roadways and driveway entrances (especially those that were altered in late December 2020) to ensure ample turning movement was provided for the driveway entrances and roadways for both residential or commercial vehicles hauling a trailer, boat, motorcycle etc. (that may be utilizing one of these business) in an effort to eliminate or avoid their trailer tires from hitting the new granite curbing when accessing or egressing locations throughout the project limits?
5. Specific concerns for the West Chatham Post Office – 1671 Main Street, West Chatham - entrance with vehicles observed to make wide turns in, and out over the demarked small triangular island. What is the size of the of the entrance and how is that measured? Can it be further enlarged?
6. Why did the State use T-100 granite transition curbing on the roundabout instead of just keeping the street level with the proposed stamp concrete?
7. There seems to be areas where the granite curbing looks tight at both roundabouts. Has MassDOT or their Engineer looked at all curbing throughout the project to make sure installed to plan? If an area or areas were determined to be off, has provisions been made to adjacent, revise or alter the curbing in those areas (especially at the George Ryder Road location)?
8. Why is the eastbound roadway entry lane at Barn Hill narrower than the west bound lane, and narrower than the entry into the George Ryder roundabout?
9. What does MassDOT intend to do about the blind spot/site distance issue for cars entering the roundabout from the east at the Barn Hill Road roundabout? Why is Dunkin Donuts so close to the road?
10. Why are there so many protruding granite curbing in/along the project construction limits?
11. Where is the snow going to be put by MassDOT when plows can't get close to the granite curbing?
12. Confirmation of the size of the round-abouts were built to the published plans.